(a) whether Government have recently increased coal cess in the North Eastern region of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Central Government does not levy any cess on coal.

According to available information Govt_ of Meghalaya has been collect, ing Minerals Cess on coal at the following rates; —

1. Rs. 10.00 per tonne for the period from 1.10.1989 to 31.3.1993.

2 Rs. 35.00 per tonne for the period from 1.4.1993 to 31.1.1994.

3. Rs. 30.00 per tonne for the period w.e.f. 1.2.1994.

Govt, of Assam was levying a land tax of Rs. 100 per tonne of coal produced which has been withdrawn by them w.e.f. 1.2.1994. Consequently, royalty on coal produced in the State of Assam has been enhanced w.e.f. 25.3.1994 as follows:

Type of coal	Previous rates	Enchanced rates
Hand picked coal produced in the State of Assam	7.00	150.00
Ungraded Run of Mine co il produced in the State of Assjm	6.50	120.00

Foreign collaboration to meet the demand *of coal*

775. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into foreign collaboration to meet the demand of coal in the country during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the category of coal which is not available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Government have been taken securing foreign assistance from Countries like U.K., France, Germany, Canada, Australia with a view to increase coal production by way of getting technical end financial assistance, procuring larger capacity machinery and equipment which are not indi-geneously available. However, no new contract was signed during 1993-94 to meet demand of coal in the country.

(c) Existing supply of low ash coking coal is not adequate to meet the demand of Steel Plants. This is being supplemented by import of low ash coking coal. In the year 1993-94, 6.80 m.t. of coking coal was imported for blending with indigeneously available coking coal.

Demand of washed coal in this country

776. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA; Will the Minister of COAL, be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for washed coal is higher than its production;

(b) if so the average annual production of washed coal in. the country in each plant;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal for setting up coal washeries in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for delay in setting up of coal washeries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OP COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The figures of washed coal production (washery-wise) in the country during 1993-94 are as under:

(in million tonnes)

Name of the washery	Washed coal Production (Provisional)
Coal India Limited	
1. Dugda-I	0.53
2. Dugda-II	0.60
3. Bhojudih	0.98
4. Patherdih	0.52
5. Lodna	0.20
6. Sudamdih	0.34
7. Barora	0.12
8. Moonidih	0.51
9. Mohuda	0.26
10. Kargali	1.35
11. Kathara	0.82
12. Swang	0.70
13. Gidi	0.96
14. Rajrappa	0.97
15. Nandan	0.37
Tata Iron & Steel Company	
16. Jamadoba	0.94
17. West Bokaro	1.06
Steel Athority of India	
18. Chasnalla	0.59
19. Durgapur Steel Plant Washery	0.34
TOTAL WASHED COAL :	12.16

(c) to (e) In response to an enquiry floated by Coal India Limited (CIL) inviting private investments in setting up the coal washeries 42 offers were revived. On the basis of the discussions held between CIL and the concerned parties and also the valuation don': by CIL, 21 offers were pre qualified However, in view of the poor response from the pre-qualined parties for investment in setting up of coal washeries on build-own-operute basis, Coal India Limited. (CIL) lies now floated a global tender inviting pro-qualifying bids from potential investors in India and abroad for *Deve*lopment of washeries on build ownoprate basis.

Quality control of coal supplied jo power stations

777. SIHRI MD. SALIM: SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE;

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal Controller grade the quality of coal supplied by tests;

(b) if so, whether the coal controller reviews the grading from time to time depending upon the laboratory test results;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Coal Controller downgraded coal from Sasti and Dhoptala Coal Mines of Western Coalfields Limited for Raichur Thermal Power Station from Grade 'D' to Grade "E" in April, 1992 although actual laboratory tests revealed the grade to be "G" and thereafter the Coal Controller issued orders to keep in abeyance the aforesaid downgrading;

(d) whether an independent and responsible authority like the Central Electricity Authority or the Central Power Research Institute ever carried out laboratory tests about the quality of coal supplied *by* the coal mines to, the Power Stations; and

(e) if so, when, were such investigations carried out and what were the findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF ! THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA). (a) and (b) Giade of coal of any colliery is declared by owner, agent or Manager of i the colliery in accordance with the standard laid down by the Coal Controller under Colliery Control Order, 1945. Physical verification of the grade can be done by the Coal Controller either suo-moto or for settlement of dispute arising out of dec-lai ation of grade.

(c) As per Coal Controller's information, coal from Sasti and Dhopta coal mines of Western Coalfields limited (WCL) despatched from Panderpaoni siding, was revised from Grade 'D' to Grade 'E'. On joint representation from WCL and Raichur Thermal Power Station that coal received from Panderpaoni side was generally satisfactory, the order of down-grading by Coal Controller was kept in abeyance. More des. patch samples were drawn from the coal despatched from Panderpaoni sidings and since these samples con- Armed to the declared grade, no fur_ ther action for downgrading coal was taken.

(d) and (e) Under the Colliery Control Order, 1945 Coal Controller is the independent authority to draw samples for verification of grades and settlement of disputes relating to quality etc. of coal supplied from various collieries.

Pit-head stock of Coal India Limited

778. SHRI MD. SALIM: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU;

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state;

(a) the pit-head stock of Coal India Limited during the last three years i.e. year ending March, 1992, 1993 and 1994;